



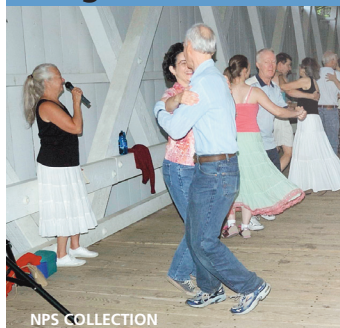
Come Contra Dancing

Young and old alike bend, swing, and smile as they follow the caller through lively jigs and reels. The atmosphere is friendly at contra dances in the Cuyahoga Valley. *Strings and Things* and caller Carol Kopp lead a group of dancers who meet twice a month in Peninsula. The unusual settings, either a historic school house or a reconstructed covered bridge, make these evenings memorable. Every dance is taught and walked through. All are welcome. Contra dancers customarily change partners after each dance, so you may come alone or with someone else.



NPS COLLECTION

Origins



NPS COLLECTION

Contra dance has its roots in the music and dancing of the British Isles. It came to the New World with the earliest settlers. New England style contra dancing was probably brought to the Cuyahoga Valley by settlers arriving from New Hampshire, Connecticut, and New York. That heritage has been handed

down to modern times from one dancer to another, ordinary folks sharing a love of movement and community. Contra dancing is similar to square dancing. It is performed by couples facing in two opposite lines. Before each dance the caller explains the figures while walking the dancers through them.

When and Where



NPS COLLECTION

North Coast Contra Community regularly presents dances on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Check the park *Schedule of Events*, available at visitor centers or online at www.nps.gov/cuva, or www.dayinthevalley.com for exact dates. All ages are welcome. Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Fee: \$6. Boston Township School House, 7 p.m. instruction and 8 - 10:30 p.m. dancing. A special outdoor dance

occurs on the second Thursday in July at the Everett Road Covered Bridge.

Boston Township School House is located at 1775 Main Street in Peninsula, at the northeast corner of SR 303 and Riverview Road.

Everett Road Covered Bridge is located on Everett Road, 1/2 mile west of Riverview Road in Peninsula.



**Cuyahoga Valley
National Park**